SURFSIDE GIRLS
THE SECRET OF DANGER POINT

KIM DWINELL
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KIM DWINEll
Samantha Taylor!
Turn on your phone already!
Maybe I don't want to be found.

No, please... Summer JUST started -
Don't be mad at me.

What was last night about?

Dude! You get ridiculous if there are boys around!
THE NIGHT BEFORE

Eeee! I can’t wait to see this movie!

So right!

Oooh! Is that Zack and Jon?

Zack! hee hee

hee

hee

hee
Dude, it's Jade and Sam.

Hey, what's up?

Jack Fletcher

Jon Bateman

We know them from school.

JADE!
I’m sorry! I seriously can’t help it if they’re cute.

What the heck! First you bail on me in Junior Lifeguards...

My parents want me to focus on cello!

We can still surf together!

... then when we hang out... whatever. You’re just weird lately.
Um mmm... not to change the subject, but what are you doing?

Ants are so cool. I made a path for them to follow with my bagel crumbs.

And who's weird?!
Come on.

Let's go do something fun. Friends?

Always.

Wanna kayak?

I'll paddle. To the Dude!
Hi, Mr. Taylor!

Hey, Dad.

Jade, seriously. It’s Bob.

Sorry - my parents’ rules.

What are you ladies up to on your first day of freedom?
We're going to paddle!

Can Jade grab a kayak?

Of course!

No surf out there, huh?
Well, have fun. Love you, Sammy girl. Stop in for a burger when you're done.
Classic day.

The water's so clear! Check out all this kelp!

Oooh, look! A garibaldi!

A baby! See the blue dots? He's adorable!
I wish we could freeze right now forever.

Our very own ocean. It does rock.

I wonder how much the resort will change all this.
Wait - what resort?
The one they’re building on Danger Point.
The old hermit up there died. The mailman found him.
He’d been dead for days.

It was in the paper.
You read the paper?
Every day! How would anyone know what’s going on in the world if they didn’t read the paper?

Nerd.
Maybe. But I’m an informed nerd.
We can't let that happen!

That's our surfing beach!

It'll be overrun with tourists.

Eew!

Want to paddle around and see if they started work?

Sure.

So... he's been dead for a while? Doesn't he have family?

No - thus "hermit." He was very mysterious.
Isn't it awesome?

So beautiful!

I'd check the surf from my bed!
Hey - what's that?

What's what?

That sparkly stuff.

Huh. I don't know...

Ooh! What if it's gold?

I'm gonna go check it out.
Gold?

Not gold, but weird...

I think it's... light!
Why would there be light down there?

Wanna come check it out?

You know I have the lung capacity of a gnat. You go.
SAM!

Sam...
Jade?

Jade, I'm okay!

-gulp-
AAAAAAAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
Samantha Lynn Taylor. So.

It is you.

I half-suspected. I am Mr. Wu.

We called, and you answered the call.
SAM! Answer me!

Jade - I'm...

... I'm ...

You are close to the earth, little one.

The dolphins call you...

EEeee-eeeeee-Eee-
EeeeeEEE-e-
eeeee-
e-e-e

Hard to say in dolphin.
Translated it means "Sea Kitten."

Sam! This is not funny!

I have to go.
Careful, miss!

gasp!
You’re SCARING me, Sam!
Jade! I've got to get back to my friend.

Sea Kitten. It will now be your duty to do what needs to be done.
Come back soon...

... please.
SAM!

Wait! Talk to me! What's going on?!
I thought you...

DROWNED!

SAM!!!
Sammy! Jade! What happened?

-Peanut butter.

I ... um -sniff- stubbed my toe.
Yeees... her toe. Ouch.

And, -sniff- I think I got urchin in it.

Yes... Sea urchin. Lots of spines. Very painful.

You stubbed your toe...

... paddling?

Let me see the toe.
Well, I don’t see any sea urchin, but it can take a while to fester out. Come get a burger and some iced tea. Do you want me to carry you?

No —sniff— just give me a minute.
“Peanut butter” is a secret code word that me and Jade use when we can’t talk about an important thing right that minute, but we totally have to remember it to talk about it later. Like, when a lady shouldn’t be wearing a bikini that small, or a German tourist guy is jogging in speedos and shoes and a fanny pack.
Sam, seriously.
The peanut butter. What happened back there?

Okay. Pinky promise you won't think I'm looney?

Whatever. Pinky promise.

SEA KITTEN?
GHOSTS, Jade!

Ghosts. In funky clothes.

You believe me, right?

Umm... I'm sure you saw something.

Come with me! Will you come see for yourself?

Not through a cave. No way.
We can go the clifftop way!

Ruudirea!

chew

chew

Good idea! But first we need some ghost detecting gear. Recording devices.

Like on that ghost-hunting TV show.

You can film on your phone!
True, but we need more specialized stuff.

Wait, ghosts are cold, right? I'll bring a thermometer.

Brilliant.

Clifftop in half an hour?

Sounds like a plan. And, Jade?

I'm totally freaked out by this.

I've got your back - no worries.
Wow - cool gate.

Yeah, but this construction fence means they're ready to go.

Um... do you have a flower in your hair?

... I do.

Shall we?

Let's do it.
Whoa.
Samantha!

The sun smiles on you.

You have agreed to take on this responsibility, and I am grateful.

We are grateful.
Ummmm... I, um... can we talk about that?

I... um... have a lot of questions.

Oh, and this is my best friend, Jade.

Are you getting all this?
This is Mr. Wu.

Sam. Honey. Who are you talking to?
You don't see them?

Them?

You answered the call. This is your journey.

You're freaking me out.

Samantha.
The video playback shows nothing - just you...

SAMANTHA!

And the thermometer?

There WERE some strange fluctuations...

Sea Kitten! Our world is hidden from her. This is yours alone.

Sam.
I'm scared. You're scaring me. I want to go home.

I'm scared too.

What if I don't want this?
You didn’t see ANYTHING?

Just that garden. So beautiful!

But nothing that, um... talked.

Not even the rabbit?

RABBIT?

Check your phone again.
You believe me...

...right?
I don't know - that was really freaky.

I have to go.

My mom has an art thing tonight.
You okay? Your dad called - he was worried.

Hi, honey!

How's your foot?

Oh! Uh... feeling better!

I'm glad. I just baked cookies. Peety, share with your sister.
Hey, Mom?

Yes, honey?

Do you believe in ghosts?

Well, sure! I think so. Maybe if a person just can't move on yet...

... like a young woman pining for her lover...

... who never returned from sea.

sigh.
No way. EVERYONE knows that ghosts are creepy and carry chains. Duh.

Only the ones under your bed, dork.

Stop it, you two! Why, honey?

Just wondering.
And that’s it for tonight’s news. Tune in tomorrow morning for weather and traffic.

We’re off to bed.

People are gonna want their egg burritos early tomorrow.
Not too late - promise? And turn off the TV when you're done.

Good night, love.
The rocks!

HELP US!

-gasp-
Mr. Wu?

Mr. Wu?

Samantha Lynn Taylor. Welcome. Walk with me.
Mr. Wu, what's going on? I had a scary dream. I had to make sure everything was okay.

Once again you answered the call. As I was the guardian, now it passes to you.

Wait - what? Why me?

Yes. Why you? Ask yourself. The gray whale knows it has to swim south. And so do you know.
I'm young! I don't know anything!

I write really bad essays. And I have a C in math.

Your gifts brought you to us. Use them.

Thank you, Samantha. Be well.

What you seek, you will find in the cave.
gasp!

Miss?
Oh! It's you!

It is unwise to negotiate the cave on such a dark night as this, if you are unaccustomed to its secrets.

Ummmm...

May I guide you?
I'm Robert. And you are Miss...?

Samantha.
I was... umm... worried about you.
Sorry, miss?

I... had a dream, and we were...

I was in your dream?

hee

hee

hee

hee
I'm sorry. I'm... terrified.

No one here will hurt you. Tell me the dream.

gasp!

We were surfing... it was stormy. And the rocks! We were in trouble!

Ah yes. The rocks. Where I lost my life those years ago.
Oh! I’m so sorry. How? You were so young...

Our ship wrecked in a fierce storm on the rocks out front.

The last I remember of the living world was Wu dragging me up the beach.

He could still see me after I crossed over...
You were a pirate?

Not always.

I was first put aboard a merchant ship after I was orphaned.

The crew was rough and mutinied the good captain. They were hard years—
we sailed 'round the Horn, chasing ships bound for San Francisco.
And you stay here at Danger Point?

Time moves... differently for us.

It was not until I took notice of you riding the waves that I felt the old rhythm of time.

You watch me surf?

The dolphins gather when you play. They too enjoy your company.
- gasp -

What is this charm on your neck?

Surfers have adopted him. He keeps us safe.

My St. Christopher? He’s the patron saint of travelers.

If only you had had one...
I have held on to this for many years.

I knew that one day I would find someone special to wear it. I had nearly given up hope.
Beautiful, Miss Samantha.

It's amazing. I don't know what to say!

Thank you.

You will help us?
I... I'll try...

But I have no idea how!

You heard our call. Perhaps just keep listening.

I have to get back.

I kind of, um, snuck out.

My dad will kill me if he finds out.

A wise father, to keep a close eye on you.
What the HECK were you thinking?!
We were about to call the police!

I'm sorry - I had this weird dream. I had to go to... um...

Danger Point.

You're TWELVE! Don't you know it's not safe for a young girl to be out at night alone? Haven't we taught you?

Tomorrow you work the morning shift with me.
THE NEXT MORNING

Mayor Buckley - your coffee.

It better be hot.

Dude! I got your text! Why are you grounded?

I kinda snuck out...
You what?!

What’s wrong with you?

Where did you go?

I had this dream. It’s complicated. I thought, um, he needed help. So I went to the cliff.

He? He who? Mr. Wu?

Well... no. Robert. He’s younger. And a pirate.

Wait a minute. Younger?
Cute?

You left out the part about the CUTE BOY?

Umm...

GHOST boy, Jade. Jade, I... I... GIGGLED.

Do you get it now?
We traded necklaces. He has my St. Christopher. It’s so sad, Jade. He told me how he died, right on the rocks at Danger Point.

Dude! I’m going to need the whole story, in detail...

...and I’m going to put it all in here. Check this out.
THE JOURNAL OF WEIRD

A documentation of strange occurrences and clues as recorded by JADE LEE

1) GHOSTS - DANGER POINT CLIFF: as seen and described by SAMANTHA TAYLOR:

a) Ghosts in pirate costumes
   - large boots with buckles
   - pirate hats

b) Native Americans
   - grass skirts
   - feather capes

   Like hula skirts?

c) Mr. Wu: recently deceased
   - Chinese
   - Old-school Chinese clothes

d) Cowboys?
   - hats and bandanas
   - weird pants
   - boots
Rabbits
small, fuzzy

I'm writing all of our clues and weird occurrences down in here.

We need to figure this out! I'm worried about that land!

Dude!
Oh my gosh!
Speaking of weird...
Check out these two! “Bird Man” and “Yacht Lady.” Right on cue. Entry two!

SAMMY!

Coming!
Bring this to table five and you can go. And Sammy?

Yeah?

NEVER do that again.

So my dad said...

...

Can I help you?

Nice handwriting.
So right! Hey - my dad said I could go. Where to?

Let’s head to the library.

I want to look through some old Surfside newspapers for research.

THE LIBRARY?! It’s summer!
We need information. Old Surfside information!

Ooh! I know!

There's a big old book down at lifeguard headquarters with a ton of newspaper clippings from the old days.

-sigh- Lifeguards! Maybe that dreamy Lt. Schaeffer will be down there.

See?! You shouldn't have quit Junior Lifeguards!
So... um, I'm a little freaked out by all this. It's scary. Mr. Wu says it's my responsibility now. I don't want responsibility!

I've got your back, okay? We'll figure it out. Thanks.
JG Taylor! What's up?! And Lee - where've you been?

My BFF bailed on me. She's getting soft!

Is Lt. Schaeffer around?

All the ladies like Schaeffer!

No, he's out on a workout right now. What can I help you two with?
Can we check out the old wood scrapbook?

No problem - it's in the conference room.

5204-10-4.

5204-10-97, 902 M at the pier...
HUGE SURF PUMMELS PIER

You're Invited! SLGA Annual

LOBSTER & CLAMBAKE

LIFEGUARD NATIONALS COME TO SURFSIDE

Park & Roll

SURFSIDE LIFEGUARD ASSOCIATION
1st Place
Men's Dory
USLA
1951

1972 Summer
Introduces First Female Lifeguard

Lifeguard Chief Retires
by Ann Adams

Lifeguard Exchange
1953-54
USA NZ

Handwritten text not legible.
There.

Captain, do you know who this man is?

Uuh... I don't, but right next to him is Chief Scott...

... the department's first chief, and his wife, Edna. She put this book together. He's passed away, but she's still alive. She's as old as dirt. You know the Barnacle?
On Third Street?

You got it! That's her place. Why do you want to know?

We've got a mystery to solve!

Ha ha! Well, have fun, ladies.

I'm sure Edna would love a visit.
Mrs. Scott? I’m Sam Taylor, and this is Jade Lee.

Knock, knock. Who is it?

Captain Gilbert at lifeguard headquarters was showing us the old scrapbook. We have some questions about the old days.
Well, I do know a thing or two about the old days. Come in!

Would you like some iced tea?

We love iced tea!

I've got some here in the fridge. Have a seat.
Oh dear - I know I made some this morning...

Here it is! You must have grabbed the wrong pitcher!
Mrs. Scott - you’ve lived in Surfside a long time. I took a picture with my phone of one of the old photos from the lifeguard scrapbook you made.

Do you know Mr. Wu?

Oh, dear Jian Wu. He saved my life, you know, when I was just a little girl.

Go on.
I was playing on the beach, and a huge wave knocked me down.

Jian was fishing nearby - he scooped me up.

and brought me back to my parents.

He never would let my parents properly thank him. He kept to himself. He was a shy old man.
How old were you then?

Oh... four or five.

And if you don't mind me asking, how old are you now?

Oh! I'm ninety-three!

Or ninety-four...

No. Ninety-three, I think.

Come back soon!
Well, we have a first name, but this means he was well over a hundred!

She’s super cute. But can we believe her? After the iron?

I don’t know. We have to do more digging online.

Later. I need to clear my head. Let’s go surf.
Sea Kitten?! Really?

Sooo... I'm still really freaked out by this responsibility thing.

Why me? Mr. Wu says I have "gifts." Really? What am I good at?

Well... you have really good hair.

That's not a gift!
Um, well, you’re really good at oceany things like swimming and surfing.

Hey, not to bum you out...

... but I talked to my dad about why a person would see ghosts.

Theoretically, of course.

He explained about, like, schizophrenia and mental illness.

You don’t think...
No, I don’t think you’re crazy! I can’t see what you see, but I, um... think you probably... see something.

He told me he watches me surf. He’s up there now.

Your pirate boy?

heee heee hee
Nice one!

Sam! SAAAAAAM!

Saaaaaam!
Really? WHAT?

COME IN!

We’re surfing!

I NEED YOU!

-groan-
Shall we?

 surfing
Peety! You’re not supposed to leave Main Beach without Mom or Dad!

But look!
grunt!
grunt!
grunt!

AHHHH!

What is that thing?

It's a pterodactyl.
Where did you get it?

We were looking in the tidepools for octopuses...

Octopi.

Whatever! And we heard a grunty noise coming from over there.

Peety, it can't be a dinosaur. Duh. They're extinct!
Is too! What else would it be?

He's got a point there. More fodder for the Journal of Weird!

It does look prehistoric.

I'm gonna take her home. We already named her Jurassic.
Nothing! We... You're all too quiet. Peety's too quiet. Peety, what's wrong?

Well, Peety and his friends found a baby... thing...

Peety wants to keep it.
Heavens! What is it?
grunt!

Peety thinks it's a pterodactyl.

Sweet baby thing!

You must be hungry.
Let's find you something to eat.

yeah!

woo hoo.
Your mom is so cool. Mine would be shrieking about germs.

I know that thing’s not a dinosaur, but honestly! What the heck is it?!

Oh! You know who would know?

Remember when we did volunteer hours down at the animal shelter last year?

Officer Reuben! Totally! She knows everything about animals!
I’ll call down there.

Dang it! They’re closed. I’ll try again in the morning.

Hey, I know! Wanna spend the night? We could research some of this weirdness.

Sounds great!

I’ll go home and grab some stuff and my laptop.
LATER...


What do you really think it is?

Ummm... an ostrich? A turkey?

Do we have turkeys or ostriches here?

Up until a few days ago I would have said no, but...
2. Edna Scott’s account of Mr. Wu:
   - first name Jian (John?)
   - rescued Mrs. Scott
   - was old a long time ago (over 100 years old?!!)

3. Mrs. Taylor’s view of ghosts:
   - romantic, like yearning for a lost lover

4. Dr. Lee (Dad)’s view of ghosts:
   - effect of drug use, or
   - mental illness (hallucination)

5. FOUND! Creature of Unknown Species:
   - Peet thinks it’s a pterodactyl
   - found near Danger Point
   - put a call in to Officer Reuben @ Animal Shelter

6. SAM snuck out - had surfing/wipeout dream

7. Sam sees CUTE GHOST PIRATE Robert
   - talked about a shipwreck
   - says he died on the rocks at Danger Point
Let's see what we can dig up on Jian Wu.

Where do we even start?

Okay, let's just say Wu was alive when Mrs. Scott says he was. Let's search way back and see if his name comes up or something.
According to this article, in June of 1865 railroad baron Cyrus Billings publicly acknowledged Jian Wu for saving his life in a dynamite accident.
1865?

I can't see straight anymore.

S. Jian Wu:
- saved railroad baron Cyrus Billings
- dynamite accident

Let me put this in the Journal, and then let's call it for tonight.
THE NEXT MORNING

Weird dream! Good thinking, jotting it down in the Journal.

... and the pelicans had beaks full of treasure.

So how did Mr. Wu end up at Danger Point?

And why is he a million years old? Do you think he owned Danger Point?

Brilliant! My mom’s architect firm deals with that stuff all the time.

Let me call her and find out.

Can I have Kathy Lee please? Oh hi, Rebecca, it’s Jade. I see. We’re trying to figure out who the owner of Danger Point is. Great. Okay, thanks.
Mom’s with a client. Her secretary said she’d pass on the message.

ring!

Really? Hmmm...

Weird! Tell her thanks.

ring

Mom was too busy to call back. Haven’t heard that one before! Sorry.

Anyway, her secretary said Danger Point is listed to a company called MCorp. She said it’s weird – the claim was filed two days ago, with only a P.O. Box listed. Box 249.

Are you thinking what I’m thinking?

Check. Suspicious. Could they be MCorp?

Possibly.

I’ll move inside. Box 249.

Crow three times for anything suspicious.

Check. Text me if anyone opens that box.
gasp!

CAW!  CAW!

US POST OFFICE

US POST OFFICE

US POST OFFICE
Jade: Confirmed! Box 249 opened!
gasp!

Mayor Buckley!
WHY would Mayor Buckley get MCorp’s mail? And what do Birdman and Yacht Lady have to do with all of this?

Accomplices? And in those outfits!? If nothing else, we need the fashion police.

Ooh! I’ve got to run!

I’m going to check on the cliff. Meet me there after?

I have cello in ten minutes.

Deal!
No!
Do something!

What can I do?!
Indeed.

What can you do?

Trust what you know.

gasp!

Hey!
Cloudbreak is the outside reef that only breaks on a big south swell! That’s where your ship went down!
And you had treasure. Am I right? Treasure!

We could buy Danger Point!

I can't let you do this, miss!

Those rocks are treacherous!

You know this.

If I'm right, this could change everything!
Noooo!

Jon! Ignacio! Help us!
Robert!
Sammy! Thank God!
Well, Samantha, you were a lucky girl. You didn’t aspirate any water.

You’re going to be fine, but you are going to need a good night’s rest.

I don’t have to remind either of you girls that the ocean can be a dangerous place.

Yes, Dad. Yes, Dr. Lee.

Thank you, doctor.
Oh my gosh you could have DROWNED!

What were you doing?!

I’m okay! But I’m gonna need you people to trust me.

This is going to sound... um, weird.

Go on, honey.
Danger Point is full of ghosts. That land is special. Someone is trying to ruin it, and apparently I’ve been chosen to protect it.

Oh. And I found pirate treasure.

Dude!

Sammy, you hit your head really hard.

[Image of a pendant with Saint Christopher on it, labeled "SAINT CHRISTOPHER PROTECT US"]]
gasp!

She’s telling the truth. Danger Point is in trouble.
We need to let the town know. They're cutting down trees!

Dad, can we have a community meeting tomorrow at the Burger Dude?

YOU need to rest!

Mr. Taylor, do you have an email list for your Burger Dude coupons?

You know I do! Everyone - even the mayor - is on it!

If I promise to do all the work and let Sam sleep tonight, can we have our “Save Danger Point” meeting in the morning?

As long as Sammy rests, I'll even throw in free coffee!
Hey, it's me. How're you feeling?

Better, thanks.

So I did some digging around online.

I think I found Mr. Wu's immigration record from China. Are you ready?

From 1864! He was twenty-six years old at the time!

Dude! So he was born in...
1838! He was REALLY old when he died!

All this weirdness is connected to Danger Point...

I’ve put it all in the Journal. Get some sleep, and I’ll see you in the morning.

1. Jian Wu:
* immigrated from China 1864 (?)!
* 24 years old upon arrival in San Francisco
* Born 1838!!!
mumble
mumble

Robert! I'm still dreaming?

No, miss. I had to come see that you were all right.

I was out of my mind to think that you may have been hurt.
I can barely see you. And do you have... a rabbit?

I am unused to being so far from the energy of the cliff...

... but I am learning. Just as I am getting used to how your time moves.

And the rabbit - he was insistent.

He is fond of you...

... as am I.
Please, miss...

Never put yourself in such danger as you did today. I was sick to think of what I may have caused.

Why do you call me "miss"?

When I lived it was impudent to use a young lady's given name unless...

Sammy! Wake up!
You're talking in your sleep.

You will work this out, Miss Samantha. Trust!

Good night, sweetheart.
Up you go.

Surf the table.

You’ve got this.

Hi, everyone! Ummm... thanks for coming. You may or may not know that there is development going on at Danger Point.

I'm here to say, um, that that land is super special.
It has a lot of history. Once that resort is built up there...

...our town isn’t going to be the same.

But the mayor’s got a plan, right? Resorts bring a town lots of money!

Money!

Is that true?

Yeah! Yeah! Money!

Absolutely!
This will bring everything!

Money! Jobs! Prestige!

See the future of Surfside!
Wait a minute! That's not what the paper said!

That's hardly a quaint hotel!

That must be twenty stories tall!

Is that a yacht landing?

You can't just put a pier there!

grumble
grumble
grumble

Peet! Is this what your sister and Jade called me about?

Yeah, this is Jurassic.

WHERE did you find it?!
How did you get that land at Danger Point, anyway?

I didn’t see it go up for sale!

Yeah!

Eminent domain.

As mayor...

I have the power to do ANYTHING I WANT!

Freeze! FBI!
Way to go, Jade!

Not so fast!
George Buckley...

... or shall we say Vincent Nesbalm! You're under arrest!

Scoundrel!

We've been tracking this scoundrel forever!

He's responsible for several horrible land swindles on the East Coast years ago.

We heard rumors that he was hiding out in some sleepy West Coast beach town.
...But we weren’t sure where. We’ve been working our way south, undercover.

...blending in with the locals.

And might I say, you look lovely, Andrea.

Ooh! Hee hee! Thanks, Raul!

Raul and I noticed that these ladies were up to something.

And they led us right to him. Good sleuthing, ladies!

Hey, I’ve never even been to New Jersey... oops...

You have the right to remain silent.

SILENT
Hey! I want to see what they've done to Danger Point!

Let's go!

I've never been up there!
Ow! This is hard in handcuffs!

Get used to it, Nesbalm!
Whoa! It's so pretty!

Amazing!

Like paradise!

Oooh!
Easy, Jurassic! What's wrong?
grunt! grunt!
What ARE those things?

I can’t believe it!

Thunderbirds! Otherwise known as California Condors!

She’s not a pterodactyl, Peet, but she IS prehistoric.

Aren’t they seriously endangered?

It’s a miracle they’re nesting here! It WILL stop construction — at least temporarily!

And won’t an endangered species nest stop construction?
woohoo!

yeah!

smack

high five!

Ooh! Brr!
INcredible discovery

Endangered Condors nesting at Danger Point.

by the inn

Boys "thought it was a dinosaur."

Mayor arrested!

Awaiting trial on charges of land fraud.

by Nina Nina

Mom said, "Mom, I'm in danger."

Said Mom, "Sara has been released in Central California, and I am in danger. It's a miracle!"

Peet Taylor and his friends...

Mom said, "Mom, I'm in danger."

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Peet Taylor and his friends...
FBI, LOCAL GIRLS THWART SECRET PLAN

Twelve-year-old heroes "used wits and disguises."

Samantha Taylor and Jade Lee expose Mayor's plot.

by Mimi Mimi

Samantha and Jade met at the Burger Dude and decided to expose the Mayor's plan. They used their wits and disguises to thwart the plot and save the city.
LATER

I still don't get it.

You have to tip your head back further when you clear your snorkel.

Try again.
Much easier!
So if we can recover enough of this treasure, do you think WE could buy Danger Point?

And then we could keep it like it is.

I don’t know. It may take more than money...

...even if we did have enough.
Are you sure Mr. Wu didn’t say anything about a property deed? If we can’t figure out whose it was...

... you know some government person is going to grab that land.

Just like the mayor did.

He never mentioned anything.

He said lots of mysto stuff for sure. Like...

The gray whale knows it must swim south. And...

What you seek, you will find in the cave.

Well? Did you look in the cave?
For what?

That's a CLUE!

Maybe it's in the cave! What did you think he meant?

Ummm... Robert?

hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee hee
There isn’t as much sparkle as before. I wouldn’t have even noticed it! Okay, so don’t freak out this time - I’ll be back soon.

Wait. I’m coming with you.
From here on out, whatever we’re in, we’re in it together.
WOW! This is so amazing!

LOOK at those petroglyphs!

Oh! I can see you! hee hee hee!
Jade, this is Robert.

Sam!

It's nice to meet you!

heee

heee
Miss Samantha! You promised me you wouldn't dive at the point again!

You said it, and Mr. Wu said it.

Trust your gifts.

I may not get A's in math...

... but Junior Lifeguards has made me strong in the ocean.

Waaay braver than I am! Plus you have, like, dolphin friends.

And great hair!

But listen! We still need one more thing!

Thanks, Jade!

Quite right!
We need the deed to this property, or it's going to get swooped by some adult again.

Let's find that deed!
By this deed of gift, in the year of our Lord 2023, the city of New York shall bequeath the land to the city as a park. Look! It deeds the land to the city as a park!

Jian Wu traverses the city... park... citi...
XXX
Your destiny and Samantha’s are now intertwined.

Thank you for sharing this responsibility.

And Samantha!

Yes, you are brave, and like a fish in the ocean. But you have other gifts.

You pay attention to the little things, like ants. Like kelp. Like sparkle. Little things matter.

These gifts, plus Jade’s gifts, will keep this land safe. It is in good hands.

And you are a good friend.
And now, my destiny is elsewhere.

It is time for me to cross over.

Be well.

This place is more amazing than I ever imagined.

Right?!
Thank you.

Thanks to both of you for your help.

Pardon me?

Oh! Sorry! Jade - meet Ignacio.
Pleased to meet you!

You know, Officer Reubens said the condors were released from up north somewhere.

The zoo’s been breeding them and releasing them back into the wild.

Pretty cool that they’ve decided to live in Surfside!

Even cooler now!

Well duh! It is pretty cool to live here!
So do you think the Journal of Weird is closed?

I wouldn't count on it...
Sun... sand... and spooky adventures!

“I loved this book! Surfside Girls is exactly what I wish all my summer vacations had been like. Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m off to the beach!”

Janet Lee
Eisner-Award-winning artist of Return of the Dapper Men

“Kim Dwinell’s Surfside Girls has a timeless quality. With its likable characters, sunny colors, and supernatural mystery, it’s a perfect summer read.”

Brigid Alverson
School Library Journal’s Good Comics for Kids

www.topshelfcomix.com